

U belt vanuit België - pas op!

De Belgische PTT heeft onlangs medegedeeld dat de groene (gratis) nummers vanaf 1 januari 1994 zullen veranderen. Dat geldt ook voor de IMPACT en de ECHO groene nummers:

IMPACT CENTRAL OFFICE
0800 1 8437
ECHO HELP DESK
0800 1 8456

Vous téléphonez de Belgique? - Veuillez prendre note!

Les PTT belges ont dernièrement annoncé que le préfixe pour les numéros de téléphone verts vont changer à partir du 1er janvier 1994. Ceci concerne autant le numéro vert pour IMPACT que celui d'ECHO. Les utilisateurs sont invités à noter les changements:

IMPACT CENTRAL OFFICE
0800 1 8437
ECHO HELP DESK
0800 1 8456

Phoning from Belgium? - please take note!

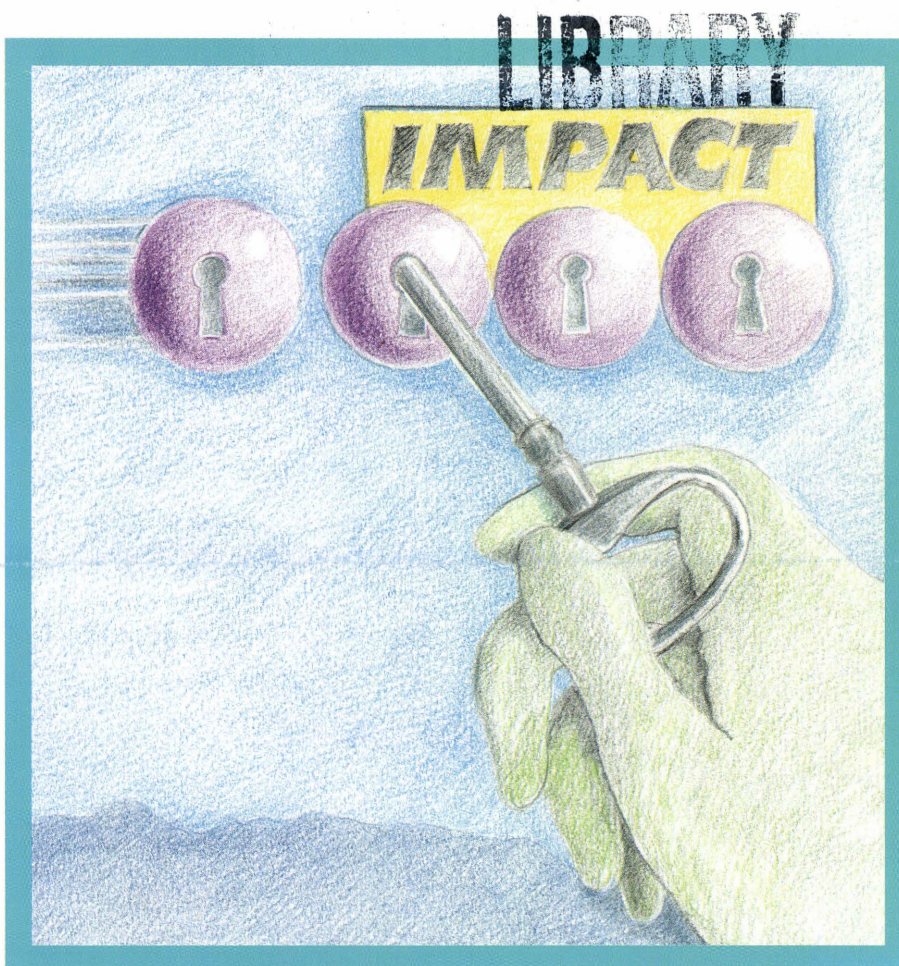
The Belgian PTT has recently announced that the prefix for free phone numbers is due to change as of 1 January 1994. This will affect both IMPACT and ECHO free-phone numbers and users should take note of the following:

IMPACT CENTRAL OFFICE
0800 1 8437
ECHO HELP DESK
0800 1 8456

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ECHO opens IMPACT Information Service on-line



Information regarding the IMPACT programme is already being disseminated in numerous ways: via events such as the IMPACT Information Day, via the IMPACT Central Office, via the National Awareness Partners and of course via information notes for the press and various mailings.

Regular users of ECHO and readers of ECHO Facts for Users will be aware that a new database is now available, namely the IMPACT Information Service on-line, whereby registered and non-registered ECHO users are able to remain informed on the developments taking place within the IMPACT programme via a series of easy-to-use menu screens.

Accessing the database is very easy! Users simply logon to ECHO in the usual way (for further guidance please call ECHO help desk - see also page 3) and type in the password "IMPACT". Users are then presented with an opening menu which will guide them through the various possibilities available in the database.

The IMPACT Information Service comprises the following categories:

✓ IMPACT in brief

This option is intended for those users who require further clarification on the IMPACT programme in general and for those unfamiliar with its action lines and general orientation. The information is given in full text.

IMPACT News

This option is constantly updated as new announcements and news items regarding the IMPACT programme emerge.

IMPACT Contact Points

Both the National Awareness Partner (NAP) and National Focal Point (NFP) addresses are given in this section. All organisations listed are equipped to answer questions and provide further information regarding the IMPACT programme.

IMPACT Documentation

In order to avoid postal delays, or to establish whether certain documents are of interest before ordering, users may either read through the full texts of IMPACT-related documents or use the special browsing facility available in this option to obtain an overall view of what is on offer.

IMPACT Document list and Document ordering service

Once you have established which documents you would like to obtain, you may use this on-line ordering facility. Your request for documents will then receive immediate attention.

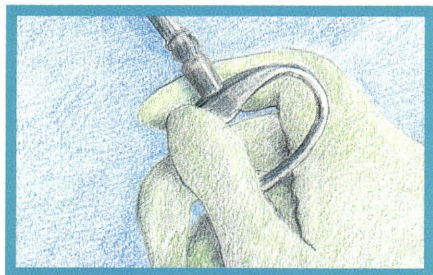
IMPACT electronic mailbox facility

Should you wish to find out further information regarding any aspects of the IMPACT programme covered within the service, or if you have questions relating to the IMPACT programme in general, please use this facility to send your questions to the IMPACT CENTRAL OFFICE.

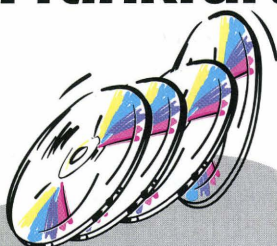
Further information on the IMPACT Information Service may be obtained from:

IMPACT Central Office
DG XIII/E/2, Jean Monnet Building
L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel.: +352-34981-222
Fax: +352-4301-32847.



IMPACT Information Day, Frankfurt, 6 October 1993



More than 500 registrations

were received for the Fourth IMPACT Information Day, organised by the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) during Frankfurt Book Fair.

The Frankfurt Book Fair included this year for the first time a separate area for electronic publishing. This made it an ideal location for the Information Day, as IMPACT has given special attention to electronic publishing during 1993.

To this end, Mr de Bruïne, Director of DG XIII/E, emphasised the new opportunities for publishers in the electronic information market based on the findings of a strategic study recently commissioned by the CEC in consultation with the publishing industry.

Info Euro Access, the central theme of the IMPACT programme, is targeted towards making information more accessible to everyone in Europe regardless of age, background or geographical location. Two important new initiatives being undertaken by the Commission have this goal in mind.

A Call for Declarations of Intent was launched on 1 October, in preparation for a Call for Proposals during 1994. It is intended that this Call will establish the interest of European organisations in submitting proposals for projects that will promote European information services and access to existing services.

Information engineering action proposed for consideration within the Fourth Framework Programme (1994-1998) will help the European publishing industry to carry out the necessary R&D to develop electronic methods and systems which can improve the usability of information for the consumer.

Applications of present-day technology are supported in IMPACT's strategic information initiatives. The CEC has been providing up to 50% support for a number of projects in the area of interactive multimedia and geographical information systems. Projects selected have involved high numbers of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as organisations in the European Community's less favoured regions.

Industry contractors involved in developing four innovative multimedia information systems described their projects:



▪ **Operation Gold** – an audio-visual database of post-war German history, combined with an interactive spy game



▪ **HYPP** – hypermedia for plant protection – offers information about weeds, plant diseases and pests in six languages on CD-ROM



▪ **HAZARD** – an interactive multimedia application on CD-ROM providing training, information and instruction on the management of health and safety at work



▪ **Edusex** – exploits multimedia interactivity to create an educational environment on facts and experiences regarding sexual education.

On the morning of 6 October, a schedule of IMPACT contact meetings was organised successfully for about 100 individuals in the European information world to make contact with others sharing similar interests.

Further information on the IMPACT programme can be obtained from:

IMPACT Central Office
DG XIII/E/2
Jean Monnet Building
L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel.: +352-34981-222
Fax: +352-4301-32847.

Accessing ECHO - Dial Direct!

Users who access ECHO by dialling direct using a PC (personal computer),

modem and telephone line will be pleased to know that this facility has recently been upgraded. Users no longer have to face time delays when accessing the system in this way, since it has now been modified to accept any modem and any protocol. Similarly, if a user fails to use the correct log off procedure, the line will automatically be disconnected. The new dial-up facility will accept speeds of up to 19.2 kbit/s and has automatic speed detection. Capacity from the computer is currently limited to 2.4 kbit/s.

In order to dial direct, please set your equipment to the following:

7 databits
Even parity
1 stop bit
Half duplex (alternatively local echo and full duplex).

The following number should be dialled:

+352-420347 (four lines available).



Third National Awareness Partner for the United Kingdom

We are pleased to welcome a new member to the National Awareness Partner network:

aBaCus Partnership
#33 Leo Ltd
Ballinderry Road

Lisburn
Co. Antrim BT28 25A
Northern Ireland - UK
Contact: Dr Robert Bunn

Tel.: +44-846-661160 extension 255
Fax: +44-846-604638.

Further details regarding aBaCus will be provided in the forthcoming issue of ECHO Facts for Users.

EC Information Sources and Services, Wednesday 8 December 1993

Following the success of the combined meeting between the CEC, ECHO, CORDIS and EUR-OP (including Eurobases) which was held last year during the On-line/CD-ROM Information exhibition in London, a further meeting has been arranged for this year entitled "EC Information Sources and Services".

This new title reflects the broader cross-section of information which will be provided at the meeting and we are pleased to announce that presentations will be given by representatives of the Office for Official Publications and the National Awareness Partners (NAPs) for the United Kingdom as well as those from the above-mentioned organisations/services.

The EC Information Sources and Services meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 8 December 1993 at the Hilton Olympia, Westminster Suite. The meeting will commence at 9.45 a.m. and an informal discussion over a buffet luncheon will close the meeting at 2.00 p.m.

ECHO users residing in the UK and Ireland will be sent invitations to the meeting and tickets for the exhibition during mid-November 1993. However, ECHO users from other countries intending to visit the On-line/CD-ROM exhibition are welcome and should contact the ECHO help desk as soon as possible for registration.

Additional entry tickets to the On-line/CD-ROM Information exhibition will be issued to participants on the morning of the meeting or can be

obtained from the main exhibition registration desk.

For further details please contact:
ECHO
B.P. 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg.

Tel.: +352-34981-200
Fax: +352-34981-234.

Pilot Information Service for Open Information Interchange: "Oil Spectrum"



A pilot information service covering Oil standards was launched in September 1993. The CEC has supported the launch of a "news plus" service that will combine the friendly and useful features of a newsletter with the in-depth knowledge analysis of experts and consultants. To be published monthly, "Oil Spectrum" will contain in each issue: analysis, discussion and guidance in authoritative feature articles commissioned from leading experts and industry commentators providing the basis for short-term decisions and long-term strategy formulation. "Oil Spectrum" will explain what is being done to make Oil possible, by whom and why, and how you can ensure that your organisation benefits from Oil.

The news service is a commercial service and is produced by Technology Appraisals Ltd. A free wall chart explaining Oil is available in English and French. To obtain a copy of the wall chart and more information about "Oil Spectrum", please contact:

Technology Appraisals Ltd,
82 Hampton Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 5QS
United Kingdom

Fax: +44-81-744-1149.

Official Notice

All TED users are requested to note that, as from 1 January 1994, the cost of using the TED fax/telex service and the on-line database is set to rise.

The cost of TED ALERT (please see overleaf) now operated by Commercial Agents (please see ECHO Facts for Users 3/93), will be (within Europe):

3.50 ECU - Short format fax/telex
6.00 ECU - Standard format fax/telex
12.00 ECU - Full format fax/telex.

The above-mentioned prices are fixed and all agents will be charging the same amount for any faxes and or telexes sent. (Prices outside the European continent are 50% higher due to higher transmission charges.)

The cost of using TED on-line has risen to 60 ECU per connect hour. A charge of approximately 0.8 ECU is to be introduced as of 1 January 1994 for each document where the TEXT field is shown. The costs have been reviewed by the database producer EUR-OP (the Office for Official Publications of the EC) which is the responsible EC institution for the sale of information in magnetic form.

Although the price of the use of the on-line database will increase, so will the value of the data. As of 1 January 1994, the original and translated versions of any full text document contained in the database will be shown simultaneously (please see next column). In addition, users will be able to benefit from the higher speed facility soon to be implemented on ECHO, which will quicken the pace at which data can be downloaded.

In order to avoid confusion, users should note that if the commands:

S F=ALL
S F=TEXT
S F=TI;TEXT

are used approximately **0.8 ECU** will be charged per document viewed.

However, no extra charges will be incurred if the following commands are used:

S F=TI
S F=SHORT
S
S F=TI;PD;DT;AB;AU

TED Tenders soon to contain text field in original language!

Following the introduction of document charges (please see previous column) ECHO is pleased to offer its users a new feature, whereby the translated version of the text field and the original language version will be automatically shown in sequence.

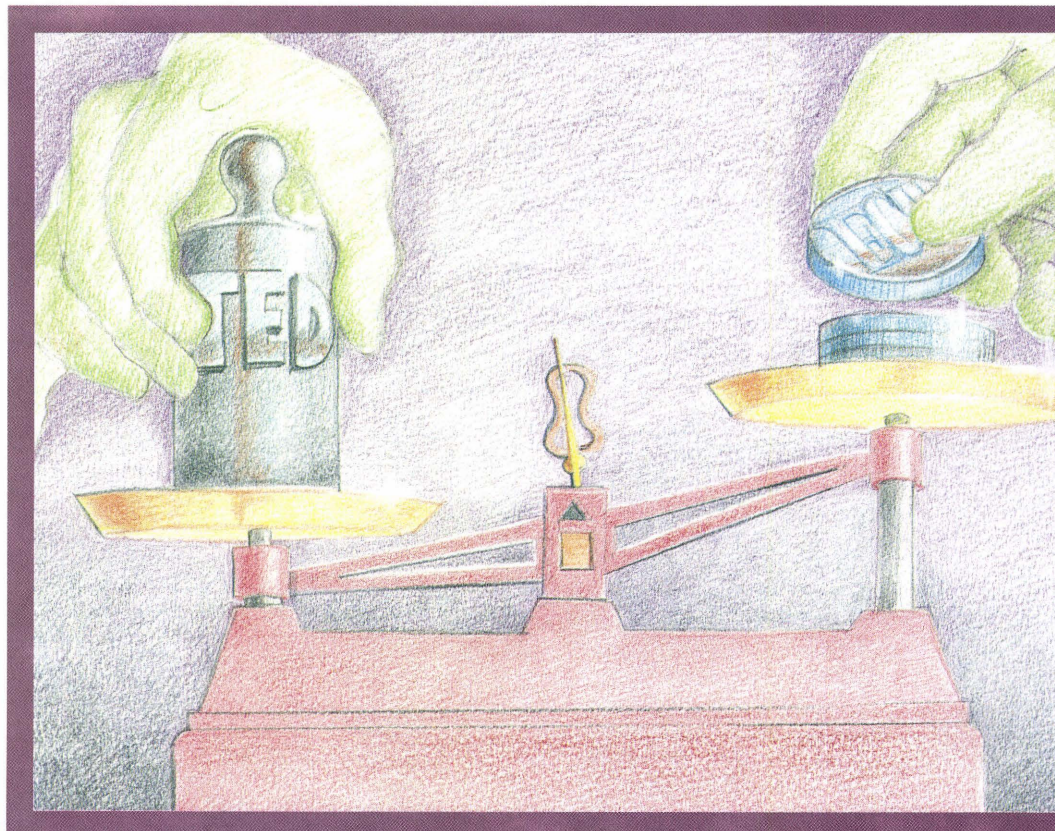
Tenders are received by the Office for Official Publications (EUR-OP) in all nine official languages of the EC and are immediately translated and are implemented on-line. Translations carry the message "only the original text is authentic" which means that users are recommended to view the original document in a language which may be different from their own. The original documents should be viewed, since important technical and administrative details may be overlooked by not doing so.

The original text of any document published in TED is the only one which is legally binding and it can contain vital additional information. Original language texts should be viewed by the interested bidder, since it may be necessary to request further information regarding the tender and reply to the awarding authority in another language.

The new language sequence feature will be introduced as from 1 January 1994 in order to coincide with the new document charges. This means that users will not be charged twice for viewing the same text field!

Please note that this new feature only affects the text field since all the other fields do not contain information which is different from that given in the original language. Therefore, commands such as:
S F=TI,
S F=SHORT,
S
etc. will produce the same output as usual and no translated fields will be shown.

The introduction of this new feature will also mean that a new field will be added to the database and that the



field label for the text field will be changed. The original language version will appear under a new field label entitled OT (Original Text). The translated text of the document will appear under the TX (Text) field label (formerly entitled "TEXT"). TED users who have saved various search profiles need not be immediately concerned by the new field label for the text field, since both old and new labels are searchable. However, it is advisable to change your saved searches, since it will not always be possible to search under both field labels.

Text fields, both the original language versions and their translated equivalents, are not searchable. Certain terms may be searched in other languages by changing the language version using the DEFINE command.

How does the new language feature affect TED archives?

The archive versions will certainly be richer! Until recently, lack of storage capacity meant that only the English language version of all TED documents could be stored. Again, as of 1 January 1994, all English language documents will also contain, where appropriate, the text in the original language. This means that users will be able to find all original language texts of tenders in TD94 – the archive version of TED for the forthcoming year.

Community Procurement Vocabulary

Set to commence in early 1994, a new product classification coding system entitled CPV (Community Procurement Vocabulary) will replace the NACE codes currently used in TED. The latter has been in use for many years for all types of CEC information such as statistics, reports and tenders. The new coding system will allow users to better tailor their searches. In order that all users can familiarise themselves with the new system, parallel indexing will exist for three months with new and old codes appearing together. Please use this interim period to become familiar with the new coding system before the old codes are deleted!

The old coding system will remain for the archive versions of the database spanning from 1986 - 1993, since it is not deemed correct to change historical data. However, the new codes will be implemented in the current version of the TED database and also the archive version of the 1994 database when it commences next year.

Since NACE was originally designed as a customs classification code the new

CPV classification codes will be much more in keeping with the type of documents detailed in TED. In addition, the new codes are far more detailed. Specific examples and further explanations will be provided in forthcoming issues of ECHO Facts for Users.

Users may be interested to note that the first version of the CPV classification codes (in the English language) is available on paper or diskette from:

Mme Diez - CEC, DG XV/B
Tel.: +32-2-295-31-52
Fax: +32-2-295-01-27.

INFO TDCODES: This new INFO file is now on-line and can be consulted at any stage during your search. All the latest news items will be placed immediately in this file for continuous reference.

New name for TED Profile

As of 1 September 1993, clients wishing to receive Calls for Tender by fax and/or telex have been required to register with Commercial Agents. An article, detailing the procedure, was featured in issue 3/93 of ECHO Facts for Users. The name of the service was announced as TED Profile.

The TED database is also hosted by other organisations and, since the publication of the aforementioned article, it has come to light that the name "TED Profile" has caused some confusion, since other organisations hosting TED operate under similar names, e.g. TED FT-Profile.

In an effort to avoid such complications, it has been decided to change the name of this service to one which better reflects the product which is gradually becoming available throughout Europe. To this end, the service will now be known as **TED ALERT**.

Users requiring further information regarding any aspects of TED mentioned in this article are welcome to contact the ECHO help desk:

ECHO
B.P. 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg

Tel.: +352-34981-200
Fax: +352-34981-234.

NOTE:

Issue 3/93 provided users with a list of TED commercial agents which was accurate at the time of going to press. However, please note that the contact person for INFOPARTNERS España S.L. is now: Ms Eliana Benjumedá, and not Mr Luis Mira, as stated in issue 3/93.

EURO-BID WATCH

■ We are pleased to include, in this issue of ECHO Facts for Users, details on two products which relate to the TED database. The first, developed by EURO-BID WATCH, is featured below. Details on the second product, TENNIS, can be found on page 11.

■ A UK based consultancy – EURO-BID WATCH – is offering a new value added service to TED and non-TED users throughout Europe and beyond. By analysing data from contracts already awarded through their own database systems, they are able to provide unique information in ways not extractable with existing techniques, for any sector or country on suppliers and awarding authorities alike. On the basis of disclosed information, this can include for example their respective rankings and relationships, open, restricted and negotiated bidding trends, successes in cross border bidding and average contract values. All information and values are tailored to clients' requirements.

■ "Even with the use of TED, tendering is for most companies still an expensive lottery. By merely reacting to tender opportunities in isolation, they are unlikely to be successful", explains John Chudleigh, the managing partner. The bid should be the final stage in a much longer process of research, which many companies do not have the time or the expertise to undertake. EURO-BID WATCH can provide the vital input into this process. Even for existing TED users, it would be extremely labour intensive and error prone to arrive at the same results.

■ The most obvious areas this can help are in where tendering activity should be both focused and avoided (and this is not based on just forthcoming tender opportunities) and in looking at competitors as potential partners to work with. "Success can often be achieved by working with indigenous suppliers, in both joint venture and sub-contracting relationships, who have already established themselves in the public sector". Here EURO-BID WATCH cross references with other databases, where the supplier information provided in TED is limited. The same analysis is undertaken for the EFTA and GATT GPA states like the US and Japan.

Euro-Bid Watch,
Mayfield Business Centre
94 West Hill,
London SW15 2UH
Tel.: +44-81-875 9947
Fax: +44-81-875 9950.

Further enhancing information access between East and West



Access to electronic information from countries in Central and Eastern Europe has considerably improved over the last 2-3 years. Today, at least half of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe provide their users with a "stable" X.25 connection, meaning that access to other database hosts, not just ECHO, is available.

In January 1991 it was decided to provide companies and individuals from Central and Eastern Europe with access to ECHO on an experimental basis. In return, users were asked to provide ECHO with details on telecommunication access facilities from their particular country. This operation was of mutual benefit since users previously not able to access ECHO were able to do so and, by completing a questionnaire, were able to:

- inform the CEC on the telecommunication situation in the Eastern European countries;
- assist ECHO in informing customers in these countries about the networks currently used;
- provide feedback about the most useful databases on ECHO for Eastern users;
- provide details on the usage of other hosts.

The questionnaire's findings have also enabled ECHO to further enhance the technical sheets we have produced detailing access possibilities from Central and Eastern European countries. These descriptive sheets, providing information per country, mention the most important existing communication channels, quote experiences from ECHO users and, where possible, provide further useful contacts (e.g. local telecom and on-line user groups). Potential clients and host organisations wishing to promote their services within Central and Eastern Europe are now able to benefit from the information gathered by ECHO.

Below, we feature the most significant details obtained from the questionnaire.

Access from Albania

As far as we know there is no public data network available in Albania.

Useful contacts:

- Telecommunication: General Directorate of Posts and Telecommunications, 42 Myslym Shyri street, Tirana, tel. 79 44, telex 2174 gentel.
- Directorate of Telecommunications, 21 Myslym Shyri street, Tirana, tel. 76 50, telex 2174 gentel.

Access from the Baltic states (Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia)

In at least two Baltic states public data networks are already operational:

- Estonia - Estpak. Now also the academic network EENet
- Latvia - Latpak
- In Lithuania the Ministry of Communications plans a modernised telecom network. This is to be known as "Lithuania 2000". The PTT or the Ministry can provide more details.

Experiences: Whilst direct dialling to ECHO was the most often used during 1991, today the data networks such as those mentioned above are the most often used.

Useful contacts:

- ESTPAK, Mart Niinelt, P.O.Box 3273, Tallinn EE0090, Estonia, tel. 326940.
- EENet, Mr Enok Sein, tel. 33635
- LATPAK, Mr Gaisterov, Riga, Tallinas 4, Latvia tel. 371 646
- Lithuania 2000, Mr Laimas Puceta, Informacijos Verslo Tarnyba, V. Donelaicio 73, Kaunas 3006, tel.201317 / Mr Broitman, tel. 522097.

Access from Bosnia-Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

A packet-switched data network was built for Yugoslavia under the name of JUPAK. JUPAK was designed on a regional base with nodes in all republics. Consequently, individual sections may still be operational. If in doubt please contact the nearest local PTT for details.

Access from Bulgaria

Access to ECHO can be achieved either via Bulpak with a direct connection (Bulgaria - Luxembourg) or with a transit connection (e.g. via Germany, Greece). Experiences show that most of our users currently use Bulpak but report technical problems when the speed is greater than 300 bit/s.

Useful contacts:

- Host, Research Institute and Training Centre: NACID (National Centre for Information and Documentation - formerly "CINTI"), Dimitrov Str. 52A, Sofia 1125, tel. Sofia 719203.
- Professional association for the information industry: BIIIA (Bulgarian Informatics and Information Industry Association), Volov 2, Sofia 1000, tel. Sofia 463493.

Access from Croatia

A packet-switched data network is available under the name of Croapak (same network as formerly JUPAK). Croapak network nodes are in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Pula. To obtain a Croapak password and user name you should contact the telecommunications operator HPT (please see below). A second possibility is access through DECNET nodes. To obtain a password and user name you should contact: Institut informacijskih znanosti, Mr. Istvan Barany, Trg Marsala Tita 3, 41000 Zagreb, tel. 420 630. Academic institutions may use the CRANET (Croatian Academic Network) which was established this year. Experiences show that most of our users use the Croapak network.

Useful contacts:

- Access to Croapak: HPT, Mr. Igor Perisa, Jurisiceva 13, 41000 Zagreb, tel. 455 355.
- Database user: Institut informacijskih znanosti, Mr. Tibor Toth, Trg Marsala Tita 3, 41000 Zagreb, tel. 420 638.

Access from the Czech Republic

A packet-switched data network was opened in 1992 under the name of

Eurotel, a joint venture of a private company with the SPT Praha and Bratislava. Eurotel is operational and has several dial-in nodes in the new Czech Republic. Experiences show that before introduction of Eurotel most of our users accessed via Radio Austria, DATEX-P or Telepac. However, since 1992, most of our customers use Eurotel.

Useful contacts:

- Telecommunication: Eurotel Praha, Olsanka 6, 13088 Praha 3, tel. 798 42 49, fax 798 41 30.
- Host: NIS (Narodni informacni stredisko Ceske republiky), Havelkova 22, 130 00 Praha 3, tel. 235 79 45, fax 235 97 88. Contact: Mrs. Dr. Kotherova.
- On-line user and contact for the online user group: Programm Coop s.r.o., Mr. Zdenek Vanek, Castavina 779, 161 00 Praha 6, tel/fax 347 383.

Access from Hungary

Hungarian networks include Nedix, DATEX-P and the academic institutions' network IIF. Experiences show that access via direct telephone lines has diminished over recent years; most of our users access via the Nedix, Datex-P and IIF networks. No major technical problems were reported for the connection to Luxembourg.

Useful contacts:

- Telecommunication: Data Communication Ltd., Hermina ut 57-59, P.O.Box 256, 1364 Budapest, tel. 251 2744, fax 252 1363.
- Database host and expert: OMIKK (National Technical Information Centre and Library), Muzeum ut 17, P.O.Box 12, 1428 Budapest, tel. 138 2300, fax 138 2414.

Access from Poland

The Polish national public telecommunication network "Polpak" has been in operation since 1992 (X.25 standard). Academic institutions can use the NASK network – dial-in nodes exist in major cities. Experiences show that most of our users access via the Polpak or NASK network.

Useful contacts:

- Telecommunication: Telekomunikacja Polska S.A., Dyrekcja Spolki, Pl. Malachowskiego 2, 00940 Warszawa, tel. 261411, fax 268865.
- Główny Urząd Telekomunikacji

Miedzymiastowej, Barbary 2, 00 686 Warszawa, tel. 286383.

- Information broker and organiser of EuroInfo conference: Business Foundation, ul. Krucza 38/42, 00512 Warszawa, tel. 219993.

Access from Romania

As far as we are informed there is no data network yet available in Romania. However an X.25 data network under the name of Rompac seems to be in preparation. Users are advised to contact their national PTT for details. Experiences show that our customers generally use the direct telephone line to ECHO.

Useful contact:

- Direction Générale des Postes et Télécommunications, Service de trafic et de décomptes internationaux, B-dul Dinicu Golescu 38, 77 113 Bucuresti, tel. 40 17 37.

Access from Slovakia

A packet-switched data network was opened in 1992 under the name of Eurotel, a joint venture of a private company with the SPT Praha and Bratislava. Eurotel is operational in the new Slovak Republic and has several dial-in nodes in the country. Experiences show that before introduction of Eurotel most of our users used the access via Radio Austria, DATEX-P or Telepac. However, since 1992, most of our customers use Eurotel.

Useful contacts:

- Telecommunication: Eurotel Bratislava, Marketing Department, Mr. Erich Hulman, Jarosava 1, 83103 Bratislava, tel. 279 28 17, fax 253 834.
- Online user group: Maria Dologova, Slovnaft, Information Department, 82412 Bratislava, tel. 247 722, fax 244 562.

Access from Slovenia

A packet-switched data network is available under the name SIPAX (former JUPAK). The PTT offers both direct connections and dial-up services. Experiences show that most of our users used the SIPAX access during the course of this year.

Useful contacts:

- SIPEX network: SP PTT, Ljubljana, contact Mr. Pavel Mese, tel. 320 248, fax 314 736 or Mr. Marijan

Susa, tel. 323 567, fax 316 539.

- Database producer and user: Univerzitetni institut informacijskih znanosti, IZUM, Mr. Gregor Gazvoda, Presernova 17, 62 000 Maribor, tel. 221 331, fax 29 617.

Access from the former Soviet Union

In the former Soviet Union at least two public data networks had already been established: IASNET and SPRINTNET. Another network under the name SOVPAC was reported to be built as a joint venture with France Télécom. SUEARN is a network implemented in the former USSR as the SU version of EARN. Users are advised to contact the national PTT to find out in which way these networks are available in different parts of today's CIS. Experiences: Most of our users use the data network access because the transmission is working without problems. In some cases other local hosts offer access to ECHO as a gateway, e.g. the Russian host Relcom.

Useful contacts:

- International Centre for Scientific and Technical Information: ICSTI (MCNTI), ul. Kuusinen 21B, Moskva 125252, Russia, tel. 198 70 21.
- IASNET, IAS, Nezhdanova ul. 2a, Moskva 103009, Russia.
- SPRINTNET, Sprint Center, Ul. Tverskaja 7, Moskva 103375, Russia.

Access from ex-Yugoslavia

A packet-switched data network was originally built for Yugoslavia under the name of JUPAK. JUPAK was designed on a regional basis with nodes in all republics. Consequently, individual sections still appear to be operational in ex-Yugoslavia. If in doubt please contact your nearest PTT for details. Experiences show that JUPAK was the most often used network.

Useful contact:

- Database producer and user: Institut Ekonomskih Nauka, RESIS, Mr. Milan Zivkovic, Zmaj Jovina 12, 11 000 Beograd, tel. 629 942, fax 181 471.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the technical sheets mentioned above, please do not hesitate to contact the ECHO help desk:
Tel.: +352-34981-200
Fax: +352-34981-234.



CORDIS

The VALUE Relay Centre Network

The VALUE II programme, the specific programme for the dissemination and exploitation of Community RTD results, has established a dedicated network of proactive advisory centres to bring the Community research and technological development (RTD) activities closer to its clients. The objective is that RTD programmes are used more effectively in order for European companies and research institutions to be more competitive.

The VALUE Relay Centres (VRC) aim to achieve this by promoting the dissemination and exploitation of results generated by EC research programmes and by facilitating participation in the programmes themselves.

National organisations who are expert in EC R&D activities were nominated to be VALUE Relay Centres, and they work closely together across Europe to provide up-to-date, specialist information which is not easily available through other public channels. The VALUE Relay Service can be used prior to participation in RTD programmes, throughout the duration of an EC research project, and also for the subsequent exploitation period. It is well placed to ensure the flow of accurate information between the Commission and those who wish to benefit from Community research.

■ Training for the VALUE Relay Centres ■

CORDIS is an important information source for the VALUE Relay Centres and their customers and therefore it was considered vital to begin a series

of training sessions to teach the VRCs how to gain the best use of the eight RTD databases. The courses have been tailored specifically to the needs of the VALUE Relay Centres and their clients, in order that the databases and search facilities should be fully understood and utilised.

The training begins with a two-day course covering a general introduction to CORDIS, explanation of the CORDIS menu system and CCL, and a detailed explanation of each database, covering field structure, content and practical usage. Much time is spent doing hands-on practice exercises in order to consolidate what has been taught.

The feedback from the VALUE Relay Centres who have participated in the courses so far has been very positive.

For more information about the VALUE Relay Centre network, please contact the centre nearest to you.

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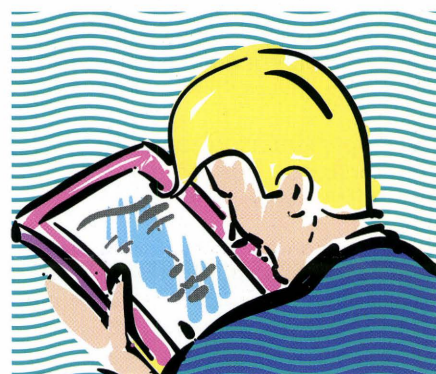
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A New Look for CORDIS UPDATE

For almost a year now the newsletter, CORDIS UPDATE, produced by DG XIII, has offered the latest news items on research and technological development (RTD) activities in the European Community to the public. The news items are taken from the RTD-News database and presented in a hard copy format.



I am interested in receiving information on

CORDIS ON-LINE DATABASES ☐

CORDIS DATABASES ON CD-ROM ☐

Name

Organisation/Company

Address

City

Country

Are you an ECHO user? If so, please provide your User Reg. No. 000 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

ECHO/CORDIS Customer Service, B.P. 2373, L-1023 Luxembourg.
CORDIS-L fax (+352) 34 98 1248

October 1993 saw not only a new, more attractive, easy-to-read look for the newsletter but also a new name – RTD-NEWS UPDATE. The new name is intended to make a clearer link between the newsletter and its origins and more accurately describe its contents.

RTD-NEWS UPDATE comprises a selection of news items which have been added to the RTD-NEWS database during the previous fortnight. The newsletter provides fast access to the latest news on Community research policy, preparation and implementation of programmes, significant new publications and results, forthcoming conferences and exhibitions and, of particular relevance, details of new Calls for Proposals and Calls for Tender.

It is intended that the RTD-NEWS UPDATE should offer comprehensive information on the above areas to those who do not require the up to the minute cover of the on-line service.

For more information about the newsletter, or to put your name on the mailing list, please contact:

Mr Edward Phillips
Dissemination of Scientific and
Technical Knowledge
Commission of the European
Communities
Jean Monnet Building
L-2920 Luxembourg
Fax: (+352) 4301 34989

NOTE:

The CORDIS article featured on pages 5-6 of ECHO Facts for Users (issue 3/93) contained a Status report for CORDIS Correspondents as of June 1993. We would like to point out that the contact organisation given for Austria should be known as the:

Bureau for International Research and
Technology Cooperation (BIT)
and not: ASET (Austrian Secretariat for
EC Research and Technology
Programmes).

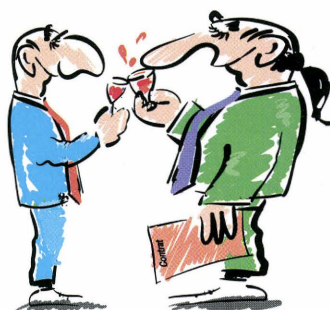
Further information on any of the
topics mentioned in this article can be
obtained from:

ECHO/CORDIS Customer Service
B.P. 2373
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Tel.: +352-34981-240
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X400 C=DE;ADND=DBP;PRMD=GEONET;
S=CORDISHELPDESK

I'M Forum Database



Activities carried out within the framework of the IMPACT 2 (Information Market Policy Actions) programme of DG XIII/E are targeted towards developing the European information services market. Among actions undertaken to extend awareness of information expertise as well as to expand the market, the Information Market Forum database (I'M Forum) has been created and is hosted on ECHO (European Commission Host Organisation).

Developed by DG XIII/E with the collaboration of the IMPACT programme's National Awareness Partners throughout Member States, this listing of company and individual names provides a pool of expertise available on-line to those seeking information in various sectors of the information market. In addition, it enables individuals and organisations to identify other parties for potential partnerships or joint ventures.

The companies and individuals listed are categorised as offering consultancy, services or both, in over 80 different fields including, for example, artificial intelligence, audiotex, CD-ROM, data conversion, electronic mail, hypermedia, intelligent interface, network management, sound processing and videodisc. In addition to details of an organisation's name, address, contact person, telephone and fax numbers, a free-text description of the consultancy or services offered is included.

At present, data are held on about 600 companies or individuals and the database is being continuously updated. The information contained is provided by the persons or organisations involved; as such, the Commission of the European Communities can not be held responsible for its accuracy.

During the development stage of I'M Forum, its content has been accessible by the Commission of the European Communities as well as by those individuals and organisations listed. We are pleased to announce that, from 1 October 1993, the database has also been open to the general public.

I'M Forum may be of interest and relevance to you in two ways:

- You can consult the database on-line to obtain information.
- You can provide information about your own consultancy facilities and/or services by having your details included in the database.

Do not miss this excellent opportunity to benefit from a useful information source.

I'M Forum may be accessed free-of-charge on ECHO via the public password. For information on obtaining access, and to receive the relevant form if you wish to have your details included in the database, please contact the following address:

ECHO
B.P. 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg

Tel.: +352 34981 200
Fax: +352 34981 234

I'M Guide steadily expanding!

The Information Market Guide database is an ever growing, ever changing directory of the information market of today and is available both on-line at ECHO and in printed form. Users will be interested to note that a new version of the printed guide is available in English, German and Spanish and can be obtained for the sum of 50 ECU from your National Awareness Partners.

All records relating to Spanish databases, organisations, products, brokers etc. have been thoroughly reviewed and upgraded, with new data added to reflect the status of the information market in Spain.

Work is currently on-going regarding data standardisation and the controlled terms are being expanded in order to better reflect the growing data. All information contained within the database is checked for errors and is updated constantly.

User statistics show that use of the I'M Guide is continuing on an upward curve and the encouraging connect hour statistics prove exactly how important the database is to our users and to the public in general, as many of the connect hours are a direct result of the use of the public password "ECHO".

Last month alone, users of this database accessing via the public password "ECHO" accumulated over 60 hours of usage time (this figure comprises only a small percentage of the overall usage time of the database). If you would like to obtain further details on the database, both the on-line and printed version, please contact ECHO or your National Awareness Partner.

DARE!



First mentioned in ECHO Facts for Users October 1992 issue, we are pleased to announce that the DARE database, the second in the trilogy of UNESCO databases hosted on ECHO, is now open.

DARE is an international referral database in social sciences and contains seven sets of records comprising information on:

- Social science research and advanced training institutions, professional societies and groups
- Research and training institutions in human rights
- Research and training institutions in international law
- Social science specialists
- Social science periodicals
- Social science information services.

DARE is produced by:

UNESCO
Social and Human Sciences
Documentation Centre
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
Contact: Mme C. Bauer

Tel.: +33-1-45-68-38-06
Fax: +33-1-43-06-07-72.

Further details on the database content and search possibilities will be provided in the forthcoming issue of ECHO Facts for Users.

TENder Notification Information System (TENNIS)

- Rapid uptake of the Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) database in Scotland, because of the utilities directive, has led Europe's largest user of the service to investigate and co-develop operational improvements for the system.
- EuroInfoCentre Limited in Glasgow has joined with Glasgow-based computer software specialists, CTD Management Systems Ltd., after CTD made an approach.
- CTD identified potential front end improvements to TED and produced a prototype model which was taken to EuroInfoCentre Limited in order to gain operational feedback from a large number of users.
- CTD and the EuroInfoCentre Limited agreed that major benefits were accessible using the prototype technology and agreed a joint development programme - the results of which are being implemented now in a final stage live operational testing at EuroInfoCentre Limited. The developed system is called TENNIS, or TENDER Notification Information System.
- The system has been developed using Windows-based Superbase 2 software, interfacing with Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, Microsoft Word, e-mail and fax, and contains several interesting features designed to improve operating conditions.
- Firstly, off-peak TED access allows useful reductions in the costs associated with on-line access, with downloading of data to the local PC database. The system will link to TED at a specified time every weekday and download the new tenders into the system. It will then reformat the tenders into single records and match each company in the database with all relevant tender records, the results of which are passed to Microsoft Word for professional output of documentation delivered via fax, e-mail or normal post. Local ad hoc matching is available.
- A shorter link time to TED is effected because the matching process is run off-line. Automatic dial-up to the ECHO host is standard.

▪ "The system allows an increased number of local subscribers resulting from these improvements. By virtue of earlier automatic distribution of tender details, they are given a natural advantage of greater potential success by avoiding lost time", said Malcolm McNeill, CTD's Marketing Director.

▪ The built-in statistical interface allows a deeper analysis of current and year-to-date figures and performance monitoring while the geographical information system allows cross-referring of pan-European statistics.

▪ High quality documentation is produced for the subscriber client, giving a more professional, value added service.

For further information please contact:

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Fax: +44-41-353-1411.

NOTE:

ECHO will be pleased to hear from any other individuals or organisations who have developed a product relating to one of the databases hosted on-line. If you would like to publish information on your ECHO related product, please send details to ECHO Facts for Users.

Numerical Address for Internet

In previous issues of ECHO Facts for Users, we have announced our INTERNET address as the following:

TELNET ECHO.LU

We can now inform users that the numerical equivalent of the address is: 158.64.1.36

Please note that this address may be subject to alteration. Users will be kept informed of any changes if and when necessary.

If you have any queries regarding INTERNET access to ECHO, please do not hesitate to contact the ECHO help desk.

NAP activities!

The list below is accurate at the time of going to press and covers the period from December 1993 to February 1994. Please contact your NAP for further details.

The following seminars/workshops have been planned:

- Germany - Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft (IW)

Date: 08-12-93
Place: Bayreuth

Date: 09-12-93
Place: Cologne

- Belgium - CNDST

Event: L'information Européenne - Etat de la Question

Date: 20/21-01-94
Place: Brussels

- France - AF2i

Date: 02-02-94
Place: Pau

- The Netherlands - NBBi

Event: SMEs
Date: 09-12-93
Place: The Hague

ECHO - CURSUSSEN
HERHAALD IN JANUARI

Wegens grote belangstelling organiseert het NBBi in januari wederom ECHO - cursussen. Als Nationale Voorlichtingspartner verzorgt het NBBi o.a. cursussen waarin de databanken van ECHO centraal staan. Tijdens deze cursus kunnen deelnemers kennis maken met en zich trainen in het gebruik van ECHO databanken. De cursus is zowel bedoeld voor ECHO - gebruikers die zich willen bekwamen in het

gebruik van ECHO als voor degenen die geïnteresseerd zijn in de mogelijkheden van ECHO databanken.

Cursusgegevens:

Data: 26 of 27 of 28 januari 1994
Plaats: Den Haag
Duur: 1 dag
Prijs: f 125, (excl. BTW) (incl. lunch)

Aanmelding en informatie bij het NBBi: Annemiek Wiercx of Frank Andriessen, telefoon: 070 3607833.

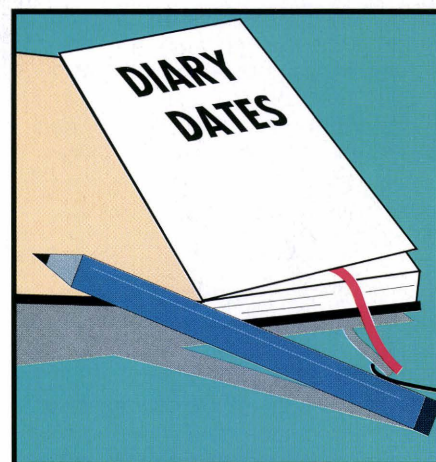
Participation in the following exhibitions has been planned:

- France - AF2i

Event: La Fureur de Lire
Date: 09-12-93
Place: Paris

- France - ADBS

Event: Foncatec '93
Date: 07/10-12-93
Place: Paris



ECHO will be present in London for the On-line/CD-ROM exhibition

07/12-09/12'93

and in 1994:

EITC - "European Information Technology Conference" Brussels

13/06-15/06'94

* We would like to wish all our users a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *

I would like to order the following videos:

☐ ECHO short (without CCL)

☐ TED

☐ ECHO long (with CCL)

(cost price 15 Ecu)

Language:

- ☐ English
☐ French
☐ German
☐ Italian
☐ Spanish

format:

☐ VHS system PAL

System:

☐ Pal

I would also like to receive the new ECHO Manual:
(cost price 10 Ecu)

- ☐ English
☐ French

- ☐ German
☐ Spanish

I would in addition like to order the CCL training diskette, format: 5 1/4" ☐ 3 1/2" ☐
(cost price 15 Ecu)

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4/93

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